

*Inquiries of the Ministry***PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER**

APPOINTMENT OF OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Justice. In his absence the other day I asked the Prime Minister whether consideration is being given to the establishment of a federal office of ombudsman and the Prime Minister undertook to check with the Minister of Justice. Can the minister say whether consideration is being given to this matter?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I cannot give the hon. member a direct answer, but I can tell him that the Department of Justice is undertaking a thorough review of administrative law in this country and the rights of appeal of the average citizen against government decisions, and a special committee of the house has been set up, under the chairmanship of the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville, to study the question of delegated legislation. The house should also know, of course, that under the new official languages bill there is provision for an official languages commissioner to act as a language ombudsman, but in general I can tell the hon. member that we are reviewing the whole matter quite thoroughly.

BROADCASTING

ALLEGED DELAY IN AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF LICENCES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State. Why was the order in council authorizing renewal of licences of some of the major television and radio stations in Canada delayed until the eleventh hour, creating alarm and uncertainty among the stations and their employees about their ability to continue broadcasting?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is referring to the directive given to the C.R.T.C. regarding foreign ownership of broadcasting facilities in Canada.

[*English*]

Mr. Dinsdale: If I may repeat my question, Mr. Speaker, I inquired why the order in council authorizing the renewal of licences for major stations was delayed until the eleventh hour? Arising from that, perhaps I can address a supplementary question which will explain the urgency. Has the minister received a protest from the president of the

[Mr. Speaker.]

Canadian Association of Broadcasters that the delay amounts to intimidation and harassment by the cabinet of the Canadian broadcasting industry?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, I must confess my ignorance. I have no idea of the order-in-council referred to by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris. I do not know what he means by the eleventh hour and, finally, I am not aware that a protest has been made to the Secretary of State in the form mentioned by the hon. member.

[*English*]

IMMIGRATION

ADMISSION OF DRAFT DODGERS AND DESERTERS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address this question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. Some weeks or months ago the minister was asked questions about his or his department's policies with regard to the admission into Canada and the treatment when they are in Canada of draft dodgers and military deserters. The minister on more than one occasion said that the matter was being looked into and reviewed, and that he hoped to make a statement to the house on the results of that inquiry. Is he now prepared to make this statement? If not, how soon would he be prepared to inform the house concerning the result of that inquiry into policies?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I regret that I am not in a position to make any statement today. The matter is at present before my colleagues for consideration. As soon as that consideration is complete I shall be in a position to make a statement.

Mr. Ed Schreyer (Selkirk): At the time the minister makes his statement will he advise whether a clear distinction will be drawn between those who are draft dodgers and those who come here to incite the people?

Mr. MacEachen: As has been stated so often in this house, draft dodgers are admitted to Canada if they qualify under the selection system. Their draft standing has no bearing on their acceptability. Persons who wish to come to Canada to incite violence are in a different category. If a draft dodger were a known violence inciter he would be treated in a different way.